

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently amended) A method of screening a helminthic parasite preparation for one or more components that reduce a Th1 immune response, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a helminthic parasite preparation free of human bacterial, mycobacterial and viral pathogens;

(b) producing a homogenate of said helminthic parasite preparation;

(c) separating fractions of said homogenate;

(d) assaying a fraction of said homogenate to determine whether said fraction decreases a Th1 immune response; wherein a decrease in a Th1 immune response is indicative of said fraction comprising one or more components that reduce said Th1 immune response; and

(e) further fractionating said fraction of step (d) into sub-fractions and identifying a sub-fraction that reduces a Th1 immune response.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein a fraction containing one or more components that reduce a Th1 immune response is further subjected to steps (c) and (d) one or more times, to identify a sub-fraction containing one or more components that reduce a Th1 immune response.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said helminthic parasite preparation is prepared from one of the group consisting of: helminthic parasite eggs; larvae; cercariae; and adult worms.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein fractionating is performed using one or more chromatographic separation techniques.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein said one or more chromatographic separation techniques are selected from the group consisting of: column chromatography; HPLC; FPLC; matrix-affinity chromatography; reverse-phase chromatography; and electrophoretic separation.

31. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein said assaying comprises an in vitro assay.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein said assaying comprises administering a fraction from step (c) to a mammal and detecting a Th1 response in said mammal.

33-35. (Cancelled).

36. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising, prior to said step of assaying, combining said fractions with a compound selected from the group consisting of myelin basic protein (MBP), PLP139-151, a superantigen, a mitogen, phorbol ester, and a signal transduction analog.